

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 3742

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, HU
SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN PARTY DAILY ATTACKS DIVISIVE TACTICS AGAINST
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

1. NEPSZABADSAG AUGUST 27 CARRIED LONG, AUTHORITATIVE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARTICLE BY COMMENTATOR FERENC VARNAI
ENTITLED "LOYALTY, SOLIDARITY, CORRECTNESS" WHICH ACCUSES
U.S. OF PURSUING DISCRIMINATORY POLICY AGAINST EASTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WITH PURPOSE OF DISINTEGRATING THEIR
UNITY AND SEPARATING THEM FROM USSR. ASCRIBING THIS
APPROACH SPECIFICALLY TO PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER BRZEZINSKI,
VARNAI DESCRIBES CRITERIA FOR AMERICAN COOPERATION WITH
EE COUNTRIES AS "INTERNAL POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION" AND
"INDEPENDENCE FROM SOVIETS." AFTER KEEPING HUNGARY IN
DOG-HOUSE FOR LONG TIME AFTER "SUPPRESSION OF COUNTER-
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REVOLUTION," IMPERIALISTS WERE FINALLY FORCED TO RECOGNIZE
UNDENIABLE HUNGARIAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS
AND BEGAN TO PRAISE THEM WHILE SLANDERING OTHER SOCIALIST
COUNTRIES AS CONSERVATIVE OR DOGMATIC. IMPERIALISTS ARE
BOUND TO BE DISAPPOINTED, HOWEVER, SINCE HUNGARY IS
COMMITTED MEMBER OF WARSAW PACT, CEMA, AND COMMUNITY OF
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND INTENDS TO CONTINUE POLICY OF

LOYALTY TO IDEOLOGICAL ALLIES, SOLIDARITY WITH NATIONAL AND REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS, AND CORRECTNESS IN RELATIONS WITH CAPITALIST COUNTRIES ("WITH WHICH WE COMPETE BUT WITH WHICH WE WANT CORRECT RELATIONS, INCLUDING THE UTILIZATION OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION LYING WITHIN THE SPHERES OF COMMON INTERESTS"). THESE LATTER RELATIONS, HOWEVER, DO NOT ENTITLE ANYONE TO PRESCRIBE HUNGARY'S ALLIES, NOR DO THEY REQUIRE HUNGARY TO ACQUIESCE IN CALUMNIES AGAINST ALLIES SUCH AS CZECHOSLOVAKIA ("AGAINST WHOM NOW AN INCREASED CAMPAIGN OF CALUMNIES IS IN PROGRESS"). HUNGARY PURSUES MARXIST-LENINIST FOREIGN POLICY THAT PAYS SOUND ATTENTION TO CURRENT CONCRETE SITUATION AND DISPLAYS FLEXIBILITY IN PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION.

2. COMMENT: ARTICLE STRIKES US AS THE SORT OF RE-PLEDGING OF ALLEGIANCE NECESSARY IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO THE SINGLING OUT OF HUNGARY IN WESTERN COMMENT AS LIBERAL AND INDEPENDENT. SOME HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY CONSIDERED PUBLICATION OF THE ARTICLE ILL-ADVISED AND POORLY TIMED. ONE CONTACT POINTED TO THE PROMPT SOVIET COMMENT ON THE ARTICLE (MOSCOW 20923) AS EVIDENCE THAT THE ARTICLE WAS SUGGESTED BY MOSCOW. OUR IMPRESSION FROM ALL THIS IS THAT THE HUNGARIANS, ONCE AGAIN, WISH TO LIBERALIZE AND MUTE THEIR ECHOING OF SOVIET POLICY LINES WITHOUT BEING ACCUSED OF DOING SO. VARNAI, CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR EXAMPLE, MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO ARGUE THAT WESTERN RECOGNITION OF HUNGARIAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AFTER 1956 REPRESENTED MISAPPREHENSION OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN COUNTRY. HE ONLY ARGUES THAT SUCH WESTERN APPRECIATION WILL NOT SPLIT HUNGARY FROM ITS ALLIES. REFERENCE TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS IN LINE WITH WHOLE HUNGARIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF WARSAW PACT INVASION. PRESS INITIATED NO RPT NO COMMENT ON ANNIVERSARY PER SE BUT LIMITED ITSELF TO REPRINTING ONE RUDE PRAVO PIECE ON AUGUST 19 AND ATTACKING WESTERN COMMEMORATION OF THE EVENT IN A NEPSZABADSAG ARTICLE ON AUGUST 22. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THIS SEEMING LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS PARTICULAR ANNIVERSARY, ONE HUNGARIAN JOURNALIST COUNTERED BY ASKING HOW MUCH AMERICAN PRESS HAD CELEBRATED 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR 1965 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC OPERATION.

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